

***NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE
PRODUCT/SERVICE DESCRIPTION DOCUMENT (PDD)
TYPE: Official Product
DATE: June 04, 2003***

MARINE WEATHER DISCUSSION

Part 1 - Mission Connection

1. Product/Service Description:

The Marine Weather Description (MWD) is a guidance product, and describes current and expected wind and sea conditions over the Offshore waters of the Atlantic and Pacific. The product is primarily intended to assist NWS marine forecasters, and describes the differences between numerical model guidance and model trends.

2. Purpose/Intended Use:

The MWD is used as a coordination vehicle between the Ocean Prediction Center, Weather Forecast Offices with Coastal waters responsibility. It is also useful to other government agencies with an interest in Coastal and Offshore weather, and by mariners at or intending to venture to sea. This product is produced a minimum of four times daily and is updated as needed in the event of rapidly changing conditions.

3. Audience:

Government agencies with an interest in Coastal and Offshore weather, and mariners at or intending to venture to sea.

4. Presentation Format:

The MWD is a plain language text product disseminated to external users via the Internet.

5. Feedback Method:

Continuous feedback is available via an Internet page e-mail link to the program managers in the Marine and Coastal Weather Services and the OPC. Additional feedback on this product is obtained at Focus Group meetings, Boat Shows, and Customer Surveys.

Technical and policy questions, and comments for the Atlantic and Pacific High Wind and Associated Seas may be addressed to:

National Weather Service
Attn: Brian LaMarre W/OS21
Marine Program Manager
1325 East-West Highway, Room 13118
Silver Spring, MD 21910-3285

or e-mail questions and comments to: Brian.Lamarre@noaa.gov

Part 2 - Technical

1. **Format and Science Basis:**

The MWD covers a five day forecast period for the Offshore and Coastal waters. The discussion emphasizes the timing and issuance of warnings. The product features a discussion of available computer model forecast guidance, model trends and focuses on expected wind and sea conditions. The MWD includes future trends and impacts of ocean currents such as the Gulf Stream, freezing spray potential, low visibility, and thunderstorm potential. The areas described in the MWD cover the offshore and adjacent waters of the Western North Atlantic Ocean, the Eastern North Pacific Ocean.

2. **Availability:**

The MWD is broadcast a minimum of four times per day and updated as need be in rapidly evolving weather situations. The OPC MWDs are available at:

<http://www.opc.ncep.noaa.gov/shtml/NFDMIMATN>

<http://www.opc.ncep.noaa.gov/shtml/NFDMIMPAC>

3. **Additional Information:**

A description of Marine and Coastal Services policy, area of responsibility, abbreviations and definitions, standards and guidelines, and means of product dissemination for the MWD product is described in NWS Instructions 10-301 to 10-304, and also in 10-311 which are made available on the Internet at:

http://www.nws.noaa.gov/directives/010/operation_services.htm.